

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY CzechoslovakiaREPORT NO. 614834TOPIC 1. Troops and Military Installations in Prague

614834

2. Troops and New Barracks Installations in Bor and Prievidza

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EVALUATION 25X1PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT June to August 1953DATE OBTAINED 25X1DATE PREPARED 11 March 1954REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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25X1 1. Prior to early August 1953, the barracks installation on the south side of Plzenska tr. in Praha-Motol quartered soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets who belonged to a unit equipped with guns. Source noticed up to 30 guns with barrels, at least 3 meters long, which were towed by Tatra-111 trucks and similar six-wheeled trucks, and about 5 other guns with shorter barrels which presumably were of smaller size. The motorized guns frequently travelled toward the Motol training grounds for record firings. Before the firings, the population was requested by radio to open the windows of their apartments. Source believed that the guns were AA guns. ¹

25X1 Another smaller unit equipped with infantry weapons also trained at the Motol training grounds. ² A garage storing an estimated 50 Tatra trucks was near the barracks installation.

25X1 2. Emplacements for five AA guns constructed about 50 meters southwest of the Zlicin (N 51/L 68) plant in late 1952 were still occupied in early August 1953. The crews numbered about 20 soldiers and lived in excavated bunkers beside their guns. They wore red-bordered black epaulets with AAA insignia and had to pick up their drinking water at the Zlicin plant. 25X1 they were relieved at monthly intervals and were normally quartered in the Stefanik Barracks in Praha-Smichov. ³ The Stefanik Barracks was guarded by sentries wearing air force uniforms with black-bordered blue epaulets prior to the summer of 1953. Three small companies of soldiers wearing red epaulets were seen leaving the installation. ³

3. Prior to the summer of 1953, a multi-story building opposite the Praha-Smichov railroad station, which had been used as an army hospital during World War II, was guarded by a sentry wearing green service color and was frequented by soldiers wearing green epaulets. No units in closed formation were observed. Most of the soldiers seen at the installation were NCOs. There also were women soldiers wearing green service color. Source presumed that the building housed a border guards school. ⁴

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4. The Jirihov a Pobebrad Barracks on Republic Square housed military offices in 1951. One office registered volunteers for training at military special schools. The occupation of this installation included officers wearing greenish uniforms and remained unchanged prior to August 1953. 5

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5. [REDACTED] the military district headquarters on ul. u dvou arpu in Praha-Kosire [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The military district headquarters was in the former Hera-Film office together with a secretariat of the Communist Party. Members of the 1932 through 1934 classes had to report in the fall of 1952. At preliminary registration, they were given draftees' cards (brancecky prukaz) which they were required constantly to carry about them. All changes of residence of a duration of over seven days were entered in these cards by the registration office. [REDACTED]

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6. Construction work west of Bor (N 50/P 63) began in 1951 and was not completed prior to the summer of 1953. Local residents said that a new barracks area including residential installations for NCOs and officers was under construction there. Soldiers quartered in the castle wore red service color and were referred to as infantrymen.
7. Three new buildings occupied by soldiers wearing khaki uniforms were west of the Prievidza (Q 49/T 97) railroad station and north of the Bojnice (Q 49/T 97) road on 10 June 1953. A company of soldiers carrying rifles and machine guns and singing Slovak songs marched to these billets from the direction of Bojnice. Two or three motor vehicles were near the billets. Source recollected no military units formerly stationed at Prievidza.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Source possibly observed units of the 72d AAA Div whose headquarters is stationed at Praha Bohnice. The billets of the 124th, 128th and 160th AAA Regts of this division were unlocated. [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. The 80th Guard Bn [REDACTED] has been stationed at Motol for years. Elements of this battalion are confirmed there by the present report.

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3. [REDACTED] Comment. The occupation of the Stefanik Barracks in Smichov was undetermined. It is believed that several units possibly including one regiment of the 72d AAA Div are quartered in this installation.

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4. [REDACTED] Comment. The building possibly houses the PS high command [REDACTED] which allegedly moved to Praha-Smichov in late 1950.

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5. [REDACTED] Comment. The Praha post headquarters and one company of the 80th Guard Bn is carried in this installation.

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